

issue 5 | august - september 2007 | sha'baan 1428

Benefit of the Day

A Collection of Beneficial Writings for Each Day of the Month



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله

أما بعد

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Allāh, Mighty and Exalted, says to those who take heed:

“By Al-`Asr. Verily, man is in loss. Except those who believe and do righteous deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience.”

[Al-‘Asr : 1-3]

In his Tafsīr, Ibn Kathīr mentions, “(By al-Asr) That is, the ages during which the deeds – both good and bad – of the sons of Ādam, `alayhis-salām, take place. Allāh swears by [time], that man is in Khusr, which means in loss and destruction.

(Except those who believe and do righteous good deeds) So Allāh makes an exception, among the species of man being in loss, for those who believe in their hearts and work righteous deeds with their limbs. (And recommend one another to the truth,) This is to perform acts of obedience and avoid the forbidden things. (And recommend one another to patience) meaning, with the plots, the evils, and the harms of those who harm people due to their commanding them to do good and forbidding them from evil.”

And ‘Abdullāh bin al-Mubārak recorded in az-Zuhd [p. 51] that al-Hassan al-Basrī said, "I saw those people [the salaf] and how they were more careful about their time than about their Dirhams and Dinārs [i.e. their money].”

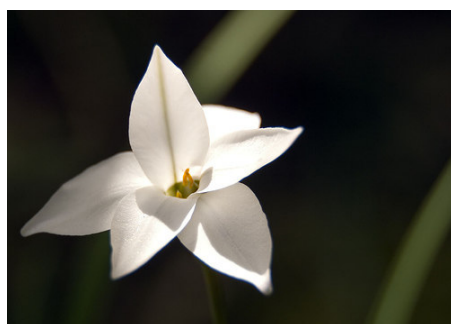
So we Muslims live in an age where our time is discarded thoughtlessly, when time is, in fact, the currency with which we buy safety and bliss in the Hereafter. We, the sisters of Dār at-Tibyān, in the effort to benefit from our time, increase our good deeds, and recommend one another to the Truth and to patience, present our brothers and sisters in Islām with the fifth issue of the ‘Benefit of the Day’ Magazine consisting of short, beneficial lessons and reminders – one for each day in the month - which we hope will add to your knowledge, help you use some of your free time beneficially, and assist you in your accumulation of good deeds.

We ask Allāh to accept this effort from us, to bless it, and to allow us to continue in what is pleasing to Him, Āmīn.

و على الله على نبينا محمد و على آله و صحبه و سلم

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Malcom



This is what I believe in...

"I believe in a religion that believes in **freedom**. Any time I have to accept a religion that won't let me fight a battle for my people, I say to hell with that religion."

"It is a time for martyrs now, and if I am to be one, it will be for the cause of **brotherhood**."

"True Islam taught me that it takes all of the religious, political, economic, psychological, and racial ingredients, or characteristics, to make the Human Family and the Human Society complete."

"I am a Muslim, because it's a religion that teaches you an eye for an eye and *a tooth for a tooth*. It teaches you to **respect** everybody, and **treat everybody right**. But it also teaches you if someone steps on your toe, **chop off their foot**. And I carry my **religious axe** with me all the time."

"There is nothing in our book, the Qur'an that teaches us to suffer peacefully. Our religion teaches us to be intelligent. Be peaceful, be courteous, obey the law, respect everyone; but if someone lays a hand on you, send him to the cemetery."

"When a person places the proper value **on freedom**, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire...or preserve his freedom."

"If you're not ready to die for it, put the word 'freedom' out of your vocabulary."

"All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds."



wednesday | 2 sha'baan 1428 | 15 august 2007

One of Shaytaan's Deceptions of the Students of Knowledge...

Imaam Ibn al-Jawzi said in *Talbees Iblees*, page 111:

"One of Shaytaan's methods in deceiving Ahlul Hadeeth is to persuade them to put down those who give sermons on softening the heart, and to call them story tellers. The objective of the Shaytaan is to stop them from attending gatherings where their hearts will become softer. Story telling is not something bad all over. Because Allah SWT said: '**We narrate to you the best of stories**.' He also said: '**So narrate (O Muhammad) the stories**.' Story tellers were criticized only because they exaggerate in telling stories that do not include beneficial knowledge, some of them say things that are impossible. However, if the story is truthful, and it results in softening the heart, then it is commended. Imaam Ahmad used to say: '**People are in so much need of a truthful story teller**.'"



...time is like a sword...

by: Fawwaaz Al-Harbi

Everyday passes by us, every hour of our lives goes by without return, even the minutes do not return....those simple minutes that went by without us realizing, we will eventually know their value and worth...but when will that be?

O, how weak we are in the face of time, for it comes in spite of us. Even in sleep, hours and minutes from your life pass by and you don't even know, and what is astonishing is you can't stop time, even in your sleep.

For that reason, the people of old said '*Time is like a sword, if you don't cut it, it cuts you.*' Therefore know from now that you are living at war with time, if you surrender it will leave without any benefit, and if you fight it, it will leave in spite of you but you will benefit. So let's sit with ourselves and take it into account; How many years went by in sleep, eating and disobeying Allah? How many days, hours, minutes and seconds went by in which we didn't remember Allah? A lifetime gone by, and the outcome?

Nothing

And we forgot the words of Allah All-Mighty: "*Therefore remember Me, I will remember you*"

So imagine if our previous life was filled with the remembrance of Allah, what would be the outcome?

The outcome would be Allah would've remembered us in every moment we remembered Him...

So look at the difference between the ones who profited from their time and the ones who didn't.

However we should know, that there is more left to life, and that there is time that has not come yet, so how will we use the time that is to come?

The Muslim Woman's Character



friday | 4 sha'baan 1428 | 17 august 2007

1) She chooses a good husband

"If there comes to you one with whose religion and attitude you are satisfied, then give your daughter to him in marriage, for if you do not do so, fitnah and mischief will become widespread on earth." (Ibn Majah)

2) She is obedient to her husband and gives him respect

"If a woman prays her five daily prayers, fasts her month (of Ramadan), obeys her husband and guards her chastity, then it will be said to her: 'Enter Paradise by whichever of its gates you wish.'" (Ahmad)

3) She treats his mother and family with kindness and respect

4) She is always keen to utmostly please her husband

"A son of Abu Talhah by Umm Sulaym died. Umm Sulaym told her family, 'Do not tell Abu Talhah about his son until I tell him about it.' Abu Talhah came home, so she prepared dinner for him, and he ate and drank. Then she beautified herself in a way that she had never done before, and he had sexual intercourse with her. When she saw that he was satisfied, she said, 'O Abu Talhah, do you think that if a people lent something to a household, then asked for it back, do they have the right not to return it?' He said, 'No.' She said, 'Then resign yourself to the death of your son.' Abu Talhah became angry and said, 'You let me indulge myself and then you tell me about my son!' He went to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and told him what had happened. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, 'May Allah bless both of you for this night!' (Sahih Muslim)

5) She does not disclose his secrets

"Among the worst type of people in the sight of Allah (SWT) on the Day of Judgement is a man who enjoys his wife's intimate company, and she enjoys his intimate company, then one of them goes and discloses the secret of the other." (Sahih Muslim)

6) She stands by him and offers him advice

"Khadijah had faith, and believed in what he brought from Allah (SWT). In this way, Allah (SWT) helped His Prophet (PBUH). Whenever he heard any hateful words of rejection or disbelief that upset him, Allah (SWT) would cause his spirits to be lifted when he came back to her. She encouraged him to be patient, believed in him, and made it easier for him to bear whatever the people said or did. May Allah have mercy on her." (ibn Hishams Seerah)

7) She encourages her husband to spend for the sake of Allah (SWT)

8) She helps him to obey Allah (SWT)

"The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: 'May Allah have mercy on the man who gets up at night to pray and wakes up his wife to pray, and if she refuses, he sprinkles water in her face. And may Allah have mercy on the woman who gets up at night to pray, and wakes her husband up to pray, and if he refuses, she sprinkles water in his face.'" (Abu Dawud)

9) She fills his heart with joy

"Three things make the son of Adam happy, and three make him miserable. Among the things that make the son of Adam happy are a good wife, a good home and a good means of transport; the things that make him miserable are a bad wife, a bad home and a bad means of transport." (Ahmad)

10) She makes herself beautiful for him

Aisha (ra) said: "If you have a husband, and you could remove your eyes and replace them with something better, then do it." (Ibn Jawzi)

11) She is cheerful and grateful when she meets him

"Allah (SWT) will not look at the woman who does not thank her husband at the time when she cannot do without him." (reported by Al Hakim, in mustadrak)

12) She shares his joys and sorrows

13) She does not look at other men

"And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze ," (24:31)

"In them will be [Maidens] chaste, restraining their glances, whom no man or jinn before them has touched," (55:56)

14) She does not describe other women to him

"No woman should talk about another woman, or describe her to her husband (so that it is) as if he sees her." (Hadith)

15) She tries to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility for him

"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your [hearts]," (30:21)

16) She is tolerant and forgiving

17) She is strong in character and wise

AND REMEMBER:

"This world is nothing but temporary conveniences, and the greatest joy in this world is a righteous woman."

(Sahih Muslim)





saturday / 5 sha'baan 1428 / 18 august 2007

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I'm not shouting "I am saved."
I'm whispering "I was lost!"
That is why I chose this way.

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need someone to be my guide.

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
my flaws are all too visible
but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say..."I am a muslim"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartaches
which is why I seek His glorious name.....

And when I say, "I am a Muslim" at the same time I pray, Ya-Allah, don't ever let me leave this deen and go astray!

Ameen!!



The Virtues of Ramadan

1. The fasting person rejoices twice:

- Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allaah, sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam, said: The fasting person has two occasions for joy, one when he breaks his fast because of his breaking it (and thus enjoys what he had to abstain from) and the other when he meets his Lord because of the reward for his fast [Al-Bukhaari & Muslim].
- Ibn Rajab, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: "The reason why the fasting person rejoices, is because humans like to enjoy their favorite food, drinks and spouse, and since fasting prevents one from these matters during a certain period, thus being able to enjoy them again gives one joy as one appreciates the favors of Allaah upon him, namely the permission to enjoy these matters. Allaah says that which means: "Say, "In the bounty of Allaah and in His mercy — in that let them rejoice; it is better than what they accumulate."" [Quran: 10: 58]"

2. It distances the fasting person seventy years from Hell:

- Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri, may Allaah be pleased with him, reported that the Messenger of Allaah, sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam, said: "Every slave of Allaah who observes fasting for one day for the sake of Allaah, Allaah will draw his face farther from Hell-fire to the extent of a distance to be covered in seventy years." [Al-Bukhaari & Muslim].
- "Fasting is a shield with which a servant protects himself from the Fire." [Ahmad, Saheeh]
- - On the Day of Judgement, "Fasting will say: O My Lord I prevented him from food and desires so accept my intercession for him." [Ahmad, al-Haakim and Abu Nu'aim, Hasan]
- Imaam Al-Qurtubi, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: "For the sake of Allaah, means fasting with the intention being pure for Allaah."

Do Not Speak for Allah!

Hadith Qudsi 12. Narrated Abu Hurairah: I heard Allah's Messenger saying:

"There were two fraternal persons among the children of Israel. One of them was engrossed in committing sins while the other was devoted to worship. The devotee used to see his fellow committing sin and advise him: Desist from doing so. One day when he found his fellow committing sin. He said to him: Avoid it. His fellow said: Leave me alone. Have you been sent out as a vigilant on me? The devotee said: By Allah, He will neither forgive you nor admit you to paradise. When they died, they were gathered before the Lord of the worlds. Allah asked the devotee: *Were you assured of knowing Me or were you having power over what was in My Hands? Then He said to the sinner: Go and enter Paradise by My Mercy; and ordered the angels about the devotee: Lead him to Hell.*"

(This *Hadith* is sound and reported by Abu Dawood in his *sunan*).

After narrating the *Hadith*, Abu Hurairah commented "**By Him in Whose Hand my soul is: One word spoken by the devotee ruined his good deeds in the world as well as in the Hereafter.**"

This *Hadith* signifies that no body should claim whether one would enter Paradise or step into Hell because the verdict here, is for Allah Who is All-Omnipotent over every thing, will decide whatever He likes. A righteous person is required to do good and avoid evil for the sake of Allah only and advise others with the same. He should not say such words as to challenge the authority of Allah. Moreover, it is wrong to feel desperate from the Mercy of Allah.

Where are the gifts ya Mu'adh?

tuesday | 8 sha'baan 1428 | 21 august 2007

During the caliphate of Umar, Muadh (ibn Jabal Radiyallahu 'Anh) was sent to the Banu Kilab to apportion their stipends and to distribute the sadaqah of their richer folk among the poor. When he had done his duty, he returned to his wife with his saddle blanket around his neck, empty handed, and she asked him:

"Where are the gifts which commissioners return with for their families?"

"I had an alert Supervisor* who was checking over me," he replied.

"You were a trusted person with the messenger of God and with Abu Bakr. Then Umar came and he sent a supervisor with you to check on you!" she exclaimed. She went on to talk about this to the women of Umar's household and complained to them about it. The complaint eventually reached Umar, so he summoned Muadh and said:

"Did I send a supervisor with you to check on you?"

"No, Amir al-Mu'mineen," he said, "But that was the only reason I could find to give her."

Umar laughed and then gave him a gift, saying, "I hope this pleases you."

*i.e. Allah subhanah

[From: "Companions of The Prophet", Vol.1, By: Abdul Wahid Hamid]



The Types of Fasting

There are two types of fasting:

1. **Obligatory (Ramadan)**
2. **Voluntary**

“O you who believe! Fasting has been made obligatory upon you just as it was made obligatory upon those who were before you, so that you may have Taqwa (Piety).” {2:183}

“The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the Criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadan), he must observe Saum (fasts) that (month).” {2:185}

Narrated Ibn Umar (R.A.) Allah’s Messenger (SAW) said: “Islam is based on five: To testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger, the establishment of the prayer, paying Zakah, pilgrimage (Hajj) to the House (the Ka’bah) and fasting Ramadan.” [Al-Bukhari/Muslim].

Apart from the fasting in Ramadan that is obligatory, the other types of fasting are optional.

Narrated Talha bin Ubaidullah (R.A.) A man from Najd with unkempt hair came to Allah’s Messenger (SAW) and we heard his loud voice but could not understand what he was saying, till he came near and then we came to know that he was asking about Islam. Allah’s Messenger (SAW) said, “You have to offer prayers perfectly five times in a day and night (24 hours).” The man asked is there any more (praying)?” Allah’s Messenger (SAW) replied, “No but if you want to offer the Nawafil prayers (you can).” Allah’s Messenger (SAW) further said to him: “You have to observe fasts during the Month of Ramadan.” The man asked is there any more fasting?” Allah’s Messenger (SAW) replied, “No, but if you want to offer the Nawafil fasts (you can).” Then Allah’s Messenger (SAW) further said to him, “You have to pay the Zakat (Obligatory charity).” The man asked is there anything other then the Zakat for me to pay?” Allah’s Messenger (SAW) replied, “No, unless you want to give alms of your own.” And then that man retreated saying “By Allah! I will neither do less nor more than this.” Allah’s Messenger (SAW) said, “If what he said is true, then he will be successful (i.e. he will be granted Paradise).”[Al-Bukhari]

Voluntary/Optional Fasts:

1. **The day of Arafah for those who are not performing Hajj.** This is the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah.

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: "I seek from Allah that fasting on the day of Arafah may atone for the sins of the preceding and the coming years, and I seek from Allah that fasting on the day of Ashura may atone for the sins of the preceding year." [Muslim]

2. **The day of Ashura.** The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: "I seek from Allah that fasting on the day of Ashura may atone for the sins of the preceding year." [Muslim]

3. **Six days of the month of Shawwal.** Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said: "He who observed the fast of Ramadan and then followed it with six (fasts) of Shawwal, it would be as if he fasted perpetually (i.e. the entire year)." [Muslim]

4. **The first half of the month of Shabban.** Abu-Salamah reported: I asked Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) about the fasting of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him). "She said: He used to observe fast (at times so continuously) that we said: He has fasted (never to break), and he did not observe fast till we said: He has given up perhaps never to fast, and I never saw him observing (voluntary fasts) more in any other month than that of Sha'ban. (It appeared as if) he observed fast throughout the whole of Sha'ban except a few (days)." [Muslim/Al-Bukhari]

5. **The first ten days of the month of Dhul-Hijjah.** The Prophet said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Dhul Hijja)." Then some companions of the Prophet said, "Not even Jihad?" He replied, "Not even Jihad, except that of a man who does it by putting himself and his property in danger (for Allah's sake) and does not return with any of those things." [Al-Bukhari]

6. **The month of Al-Muharram.** Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said: "The most excellent fast after Ramadan is in Allah's month, al-Muharram, and the most excellent prayer after what is prescribed is prayer during the night." [Muslim]

7. **The white days (Al-Ayyam-ul-Beedh) of every month,** and they are the 13th, 14th and 15th (of the lunar calendar). "The Messenger of Allah (SAW) ordered us to fast the three white days of the month; the 13th, 14th, and the 15th. And he said they are like fasting the entire year." [An-Nasa'i and graded authentic by Ibn Habbab].

8. **Monday and Thursday.** This is due to what has been reported that the Prophet (SAW) used to fast more on Mondays and Thursdays (than any other days). He was asked about that and he said: "Verily the deeds are presented (before Allah) every Monday and Thursday, and Allah forgives every Muslim or every believer, except for two who are shunning each other. Thus, He says, 'Delay them (i.e. their forgiveness.)'" [Ahmad and its chain of narration is authentic].

9. **Fasting a day and not fasting a day.** Allah's Apostle said, "The most beloved prayer to Allah is that of David and the most beloved fasts to Allah are those of David. He used to sleep for half of the night and then pray for one third of the night and again sleep for its sixth part and used to fast on alternate days." [Al-Bukhari]

10. **Fasting for the single person who is not able to get married.** We were with the Prophet while we were young and had no wealth whatever. So Allah's Apostle said, "O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e. his private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse etc.), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power." [Al-Bukhari]

What is disliked of Fasting:

1. **Fasting at the day of Arafah for whoever is standing at the plane of Arafah (for Hajj).** This is due to the Prophet (Saw)'s prohibition of fasting the day of Arafah for those who are at Arafat. [Abu Dawud, and graded Sahih by Al-Hakim]
2. **Singling out the day of Jumuah (Friday) for fasting.** The Prophet (Saw) said; "Verily the day of Al-Jumuah is your Eid, so do not fast it unless you fast (a day) before it or (a day) after it". [Al-Bazaar and its chain of narration is good. It has a basis for it in Al-Bukhari and Muslim]
3. **Singling out the day of Saturday for fasting.** The Prophet (Saw) said, "Do not fast Saturday, except for that which has been made obligatory upon you. And if one of you can not find anything except the skin of a grape or the stick of a tree, then he should chew it (on Saturday instead of fasting)." [Abu Dawud, At-Tirmithi, An-Nisa'I, and Ibn Majah, and At-Tirmithi said it was hasan]
4. **Fasting at the end of Sha'ban.** The Prophet (Saw) said "When the middle of Sha'ban comes do not fast". [Abu Dawud, At-Tirmithi, An-Nisa'I, and Ibn Majah and Ibn Hibban graded it Sahih]

Forbidden Fasting:

1. **Al-Wisal, which is to continue fasting for two days or more without breaking the fast.** The Prophet (Saw) said "Do not practice Al-Wisal (Continued fasting)". [Al-Bukhari] And also, "Beware of practicing Al-Wisal (Continued fasting)". [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]
2. **Fasting the day of Ash-Shakk (doubt), which is the 30th day of Sha'ban.** The Prophet (Saw) said; "Whoever fasted the day of Ash-Shakk (doubt), then verily he has disobeyed Abul-Qasim". [Al-Bukhari with an incomplete chain of narration]
3. **Fasting all the time, which means fasting the entire year without breaking the fast (i.e. everyday).** The Prophet (Saw) said; "He has not fasted who always fasts". [Muslim] And also, "Whoever always fasts (i.e. everyday), then he has not fasted nor has he broken his fast". [Ahmed and An-Nasa'I, who said it is Sahih]
4. **The fasting of a women without the permission of her husband while he is present.** The Prophet (Saw) said; "The women should not fast (even) one day while her husband is present, except with his permission, unless it is Ramadan". [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

It is also forbidden to fast the following days:

1. **Fasting on the day of the Eid,** whether it is 'Eid-ul-Fitr' or 'Eid-ul-Adha'. This is due to the statement of 'Umar' (R.A.): "These are two days that the Messenger of Allah (Saw) prohibited fasting on; The day of your breaking your fast (Eid-ul-Fitr) and the day on which you eat from your sacrifice (Eid-ul-Adha)". [Muslim]
2. **The three days of At-Tashriq,** as the Messenger of Allah (Saw) sent a caller, who called out at Mina saying, "Do not fast these days. For verily they are days of eating, drinking and marital relations". [At-Tabarani and its basis is in Muslim] In one wording it adds, "and the remembrance of Allah".
3. **The days of menstruation and postnatal bleeding,** as there is a consensus that the fast of the menstruating woman and the woman in postnatal bleeding is not accepted. The Prophet (Saw) said; "Is it not that when she menstruates, she does not pray and she does not fast? So that is from the deficiency of her religious practice". [Al-Bukhari]
4. **The fasting of a sick person who fears that he could die (from his illness).**
Allah (Swt) Says: "And do not kill yourselves. Verily Allah is Most Merciful to you". {Surah an-Nisaa 4:29}



Preparing for Ramadan

By Umm Bilal

Ramadan is the month of excitement for Muslims. It is the month of revelation of the Quran, the month of reading and reciting the whole Quran, the month of Tahajjud and the month of Tarawih prayers, of Sadaqah and Zakah-ul-Fitr.

No one can go anywhere without preparation, and no one invites a guest without preparing to welcome him/her. Similarly, to welcome Ramadan, the month of fasting, one has to prepare. Here are some tips:

- ❖ Try to fast on Mondays and Thursdays as of today.
- ❖ Start reading the Quran everyday after Fajr prayers.
- ❖ Spend some time listening to recitations from the Quran.
- ❖ Train yourself to go bed early so that you do not miss the Fajr prayers.
- ❖ Keep yourself in a state of Wudu most of the time.
- ❖ Evaluate yourself each day before going to bed.
- ❖ Thank Allah for good deeds, and repent to Him for your mistakes and sins.
- ❖ Give yourself time alone, so that you can meditate, make dhikr and tasbeeh.
- ❖ Start giving Sadaqah each day, no matter how little. Make it a habit like eating and drinking.
- ❖ Spend more time reading Islamic books, especially the Quran, Seerah, Hadith, and Fiqh.
- ❖ Find time to help others with your wisdom, knowledge and talent. Try to write articles on Islam for Muslims and non-Muslims.

The Two Faced Person



The two-faced person is someone who moves frequently between two persons, who are enemies of one another, and speaks to each one of them with words of praise for each one of them, and speak against the other's enemy. This is also manifested by a person who praises another on one occasion (like in his presence), and on another, debases him. This is one of the signs of hypocrisy.

It was said to Ibn `Umar, may Allah be pleased with both of them, that when we are amongst our leaders, we speak highly of them. However, when we leave them, we would say otherwise (i.e. speak badly of them). Ibn 'Umar said (of that attitude): "We (the Sahabas) used to regard that attitude as hypocrisy during the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him)."

[Ibn Abi Duniya Kitaabl Gheeba wan-Nameemah]

Transferring the speech of each person to the other is also *described as two-tongued*. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "*The most evil of people is the two faced person who come to these with one face and goes to those with another.*"

[Abu Dawood]

He (peace be upon him) also said: "*Who is two faced in this world will have two tongues of fire on the Day of Judgment.*"

[Abu Dawood]

However, if someone enters upon both of them, and agrees with what is truthful from each side without trying to find favor with either one, but his desire is to be just and to try to settle their differences, then this is not two-faced nor hypocritical. On the contrary, this is a noble act.

Mockery, sarcasm and debasing Muslims.

It is evil enough for a Muslim to misuse his tongue, by indulging in mockery, sarcasm, debasing Muslims, scoffing etc. Mockery is to highlight someone's weaknesses and faults, in such a way that it is laughed at. This could either be by statement, or action. These and other related characteristics, like irony, taunting, scoffing, etc. are all prohibited in Islam.

Allah, the Glorious said: "*O you who believe! Let not a group mock at another group, it may be that the latter is better than the former, nor let some women mock at other women, it maybe that the latter are better than the former..*" **[Al-Hujuraat 43:11]**

This is because, in most cases, it is used to debase the person that is mocked at. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "*...It is only evil that causes a man to debase his Muslim brother...*" **[Muslim]**

Disclosing and Spreading of Secrets.

Secrets are meant to be kept. We are forbidden from disclosing and spreading the secrets of people. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "*If someone confided something (to another person), then it is a trust.*" **[Abu Dawood, Ahmad and others].**

So, spreading of secrets would thereafter be faithlessness, or betrayal of a trust. If there is harm resulting from this, then this is Haraam. If there is no harm, then it is blameworthy because Allah, the Most High said: "*Fulfill your trusts...*" **[Al-Israa 17:34]**

Breaking a trust is a sign of Hypocrisy. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "*The signs of hypocrisy are four...(from among them is) if he is entrusted he breaks it...*" **[Bukhari and Muslim].**

It is Prohibited to Remind Others of One's Generosity.

Allah, the Sublime said:

"O you who believe do not render vain your charity (sadaqah) by reminders of your generosity or by injury..." [Al-Baqarah 2:264]

Allah, the Almighty, also said:

"Those who spend their wealth in the Cause of Allah, and do not follow up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury, their reward is with their lord.. " [Al-Baqarah 2:262]

Abu Dhar said that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said:

"Allah will not speak to three (groups) of people on the Day of Judgment, nor look at them, nor purify them, and they will have a severe torment. "He (Abu Dhar) said: The Messenger of Allah said this thrice. Abu Dhar said: "They have failed and are losers, who are they, O Messenger of Allah?" He (peace be upon him) said: "Al-Musbil (one who wears his lower garment below his ankles), the one who reminds (the person he gave to) of his generosity..." [Muslim]

The proper attitude is described by Allah, the Wise:

"Kind words and forgiving of faults are better than Sadaqah (charity) followed by injury..." [Al-Baqarah 2: 263]

saturday | 12 sha'baan 1428 | 25 august 2007

"Whosoever helps another Muslim...."

Hadith # 36

On the authority of Abu Hurairah that the Prophet said:

"Whosoever removes a worldly grief from a believer, Allah will remove from him one of the grieves of the Day of Judgment.

Whosoever alleviates [the lot of] a needy person, Allah will alleviate [his lot] in this world and the next.

Whosoever shields a Muslim, Allah will shield him in this world and the next. Allah will aid a servant [of His] so long as the servant aids his brother.

Whosoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise.

No people gather together in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, without tranquility descending upon them, mercy enveloping them, the angels surrounding them, and Allah making mention of them amongst those who are with Him.

Whosoever is slowed down by his actions will not be hastened forward by his lineage."

(Related by Muslim in these words)

Taken from "40 Hadith an Nawawi"

Virtues of Patience & Perseverance

Narrated Abu Sa'eed Khudri (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that some people from among the Ansar requested from among the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) to give them something, which he gave them. They asked again and he gave them.

They asked again and he gave them till he was finished with all that he had. Then he said to them: "As long I have anything with me, I do not hesitate to give you. Remember: One who wants chastity, Allah makes him chaste; one who wants contentment, Allah makes him content; and the person who aspires for steadfastness, Allah bestows steadfastness on him. No one has been granted a better bounty than patience and submission." [Bukhari and Muslim]

Narrated Suhaib bin Sinan (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) said: "The case of a believer is wonderful; there is good for him in everything, and this privilege is exclusively something pleasant, he is grateful to Allah and that is good for him; and if he comes across some adversity, he is patient and submissive and that too is good for him." [Muslim]

Narrated Anas bin Malik (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that he heard the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) saying that Allah, the exalted, says: "When I afflict a servant of Mine in respect of two of his most beneficial and precious organs (meaning his eyes) and he displays patience in the face of the affliction, I grant his Paradise in lieu of them. [Bukhari]

Narrated Abdullah bin Mas'ud (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that he recollects as if he was looking at the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) when he narrated an incident from the life of a Prophet who was beaten and injured so severely by his people that he was bleeding profusely and had to wipe away the blood gushing from his face, while supplicating thus: 'Allah', forgive my people for they know not.' [Bukhari and Muslim]

Narrated abu Sa'eed (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) said: "For any trouble, illness, worry, grief, hurt or sorrow which afflicts a Muslim, even the pricking of a thorn, Allah removes in its stead some of his (minor) sins." [Bukhari and Muslim]

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiya 'Ilaahu 'anhu) that the Noble Prophet (salla'Ilaahu'alayhi wa sallam) said: "The strong one is not he who knocks out his adversary; the strong one is he who keeps control over his temper." [Bukhari and Muslim]

25 Easy Actions For Which Rewards Are Multiplied

1. **Preserving the ties of kinship:** "Whoever wishes that his provision be increased and his age lengthened, let him maintain the ties of kinship." [al-Bukhari and Muslim]
2. **Performing many prayers in the two noble Harams (in Makkah and Madinah):** "Prayer in this masjid of mine is superior to a thousand prayers elsewhere, except for Masjid al-Haram, and prayer in Masjid al-Haram is superior to one hundred thousand prayers elsewhere." [Ahmad and ibn Majah]
3. **Performing prayers in congregation.** "Prayer in congregation is superior to praying individually twenty-seven times." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]
4. **Praying `Isha and Fajr in congregation:** "He who prays Isha' in Jama'ah [congregation] is as if he has prayed for half the night. As to him who (also) prays Fajr in congregation, it is as if he has prayed all night." [narrated by Malik and the wording is that of Muslim who also reported it]
5. **Performing voluntary prayers at home.** "Superiority of a man's prayer in his home over his prayer when people see him is like the superiority of an obligatory prayer over a voluntary one." [al-Bayhaqi] "The most superior prayer of a person is in his home, except for obligatory prayers." [al-Bukhari and Muslim]
6. **Observing some manners of the day of Jumu'ah.** "Whoever ghasala (washes his head, and it is said: has intercourse with his wife so that it be a means to lower the gaze from the haram that day) on the day of Jumu'ah, then comes in the earliest time and before the first khutbah, walks and doesn't ride, stays near the Imam, listens and does not speak - for each step [he makes] he has actions of one year, the reward of fasting and standing in prayer in it." [Ahl as-Sunan]
7. **Salat ul-Ishraq.** "Whoever prays al-ghadaa (i.e. al fajr) in congregation, then sits remembering Allah until sunrise, then prays two units of prayer, has a complete reward of Hajj and `Umrah [The Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, repeated 'complete' three times for emphasizing]." [at-Tirmidhi]
8. **Attending lectures in the mosque.** "Whoever goes to the mosque not desiring except to learn or teach what is good has the reward of a pilgrim who completed his Hajj." [at-Tabarani]
9. **Performing `Umrah in the month of Ramadhan.** "'Umrah in Ramadhan is equal to a Hajj with me." [al-Bukhari]
10. **Performing obligatory prayers in the Mosque.** "Whoever leaves his home in a state of purity to perform obligatory prayer, his reward is like that of a pilgrim (while) in the state of ihram [i.e. he receives reward similar to that of spending time in ihram during Hajj]." [Abu Dawud] So one should be in a state of purity when leaving one's home, rather than the place for ablution within the mosque, except due to necessity.
11. **Being from the people of the first row in congregational prayers.** `Irbad bin Saariyah, may Allah be pleased with him, said: "The Messenger of Allah, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, used to seek forgiveness for [the people of] the first row three times, and for [the people of the] second row once." [an-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah]. "Allah and His Angels make salawat upon [the people of] the first row." [Ahmad, with a good isnad]
12. **Prayer in Masjid Qubaa' in Madinah:** "Whoever purifies himself in his house then comes to Masjid Qubaa' and prays in it has the reward like that of `Umrah." [an-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah]
13. **Saying what the caller to prayer says:** "Say as they say [i.e. callers to prayer], and when you finish, ask and you will be given." [Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i] That is, supplicate when you finish repeating after the caller to prayer.

14. **Fasting Ramadhan and following it with six days of Shawwal.** "Whoever fasts Ramadhan, then follows it with six (days) of Shawwal, it is like fasting all the time." [Muslim]
15. **Fasting three days each month.** "Whoever fasts three days each month, it is like fasting all the time." [at-Tirmidhi]. This is supported by the verse, "Whoever comes with a good deed for him is a tenfold [reward]." One day being equal to ten days.
16. **Providing food for breaking of the fast:** "Whoever provides food for breaking of the fast of a fasting person receives the reward of the fasting person, without the reward of the fasting person being reduced in any way." [at-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah]
17. **Standing in prayer on Laylatul-Qadr.** "Laylatul Qadr is better than a thousand months" [Qur'an 97:3], that is, superior to approximately 83 years of worship.
18. **Jihad.** "Standing of a man in a row (saff) in the way of Allah is superior to 60 years of worship." [al-Hakim] This is the superiority of standing in a row, so what about one who fights in the way of Allah for days, or months, or years?
19. **Ribaat.** "Whoever takes a post (at borders of Muslim lands, where an enemy may be expected) for a day and night in the way of Allah has the reward of fasting and standing in prayer for a month, and whoever dies in such a state receives a continuous reward similar to it, and is [also] rewarded with provision and saved from al-Fattaan." [Related by Muslim] Al-Fattaan is punishment of the grave.
20. **Righteous actions in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah.** "There are no days in which righteous deeds are dearer to Allah than these ten [days of Dhul Hijjah]." They said, "O Messenger, even jihad in the way of Allah?" He said, "Not even jihad in the way of Allah, except for the man who leaves with his wealth, and does not return with any of it (life or wealth)." [al-Bukhari]
21. **Frequent recitation of Qur'anic soorahs.** "Qul Huwa'Llahu Ahad" is equal to a third of the Qur'an and "Qul yaa ayyuha'l Kaafiroon" is equal to a fourth of the Qur'an." [at-Tabarani]
22. **Al-Istighfaar.** "Whoever seeks forgiveness for believing men and believing women, Allah will write for him a good deed for each believing man and believing woman." [at-Tabarani]
23. **Fulfilling people's needs.** "That I walk with my Muslim brother in [fulfilling his] need is dearer to me than being in i'tikaf in the masjid for a month." [Ibn Abi Dunya]
24. **Dhikr.** That I say 'Subhaan Allah, wal-Hamdu li'Llah, wa laa ilaaha ill Allahu wa'Llahu Akbar' is dearer to me than what the sun has risen upon." [Muslim] "Whoever enters a market and says: 'Laa ilaaha ill Allah waHdahu laa shareeka lah, lahul mulku wa lahul Hamdu yuHyi wa yumeetu wa huwa Hayyun laa yamoot, bi yadihil khayr, wahuwa `alaa kulli shay'in qadeer' [there is nothing worthy of worship but Allah, He is alone without partner, to Him belongs dominion and praise, he causes life and death and He is the Living and does not die. In His Hand is all the good, and He is over all things competent.] Allah will write for him a million good deeds, erase a million of his bad deeds and raise him a million levels." [at-Tirmidhi] There are many other words of remembrance which are rewarded abundantly, as is well known. "There are two blessings which many people lose: good health and free time." [al-Bukhari]
25. **Easy Actions Equal in Reward to Hajj.** Muslim reported that the Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam said, "Hasn't Allah made for you Salat Al-'Ishaa' in congregation equal to Hajj, and the Fajr prayer in congregation equal to `Umrah." and "Whoever walks to an obligatory prayer in congregation, it is like Hajj, and whoever walks to a voluntary prayer, it is like a voluntary `Umrah." (Saheeh Al Jaami`, 6432) and "Whoever prays Fajr in congregation, then sits remembering Allah until the Sun rises, then prays two units of prayer, he will receive the reward of Hajj, and `Umrah - complete, complete, complete." (Saheeh Al Jaami`, 6222) It is authentically reported that people said, "O Messenger of Allah! The rich took the reward of akhirah, they do Hajj and we do not; they engage in jihaad, and we do not. So the Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, said, "Shall I not guide you to something that, if you stick to it, you will come with what is better than what one of them will come with: that you say Allahu Akbar 34 times, and Subhan Allah 33 times, and Alhamdulillah 33 times, at the end of every prayer."; "When one prays for one's brother, the angel says: 'Amin, and for you the same.'" (Saheeh Al Jaami`, 2143) So pray for your brother pilgrim that Allah accepts his Hajj and gives him its reward.

How A Parent Can Oppress His/Her Child...

And Al-Bayhaqi narrated from the hadith of Anas who said that, "A man was sitting with the Prophet, so one of his sons came to him, so the man kissed him and sat him in his lap. Then his daughter came to him so he took her and sat her to his side. So the Prophet said, '**You were not just between them.**'" And the Salaf used to like to be just between their children when kissing them.

And some of the people of knowledge said that Allaah Ta'aalaa will ask the parent about his child on the Day of Resurrection before asks the child about his parent. So just as the father has a right upon his son, the son has a right upon his father, as Allaah said, "**And We have enjoined on man to be good and dutiful to his parents**" [Al-'Ankabut:8]. Allaah Ta'aalaa said, "**Ward off from yourselves and your families a Fire whose fuel is men and stones**" [At-Tahreem:6].

Ali bin Abi Taalib said, "**Teach them and discipline them.**" And Allaah Ta'aalaa said, "**Worship Allaah and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents**" [An-Nisaa:36]

And the Prophet said, "**Be just between you children.**" So Allaah's order to the parents towards their children precedes the order to the children towards their parents. Allaah Ta'aalaa said, "**And kill not your children for fear of poverty**" [Al-Israa':31]. So the one who neglects teaching his child that which will benefit him, and leaves him [i.e. the child] in vain, then he has wronged him in the most utmost way. **And indeed most children's corruption came from their parents and their neglect of them and their failure to teach them the obligations of this Religion and its Sunan.** They caused the children to be lost while they were young, so they don't benefit themselves or their parents when they grow older- just as some fathers criticized their son over his undutifulness so he would say: "O father, you were not dutiful to me while I was young, so I was not dutiful to you while you are older; you neglected me while younger so I neglected you as an old man."

- Ibn Al-Qayyim in *Tuhfat Al-Mawdood Bi Ahkaam Al-Mawlood*, pp 160-161.

[Chapter 15: "The Obligation of Disciplining the Children and Teaching Them, and Being Just Between Them"]

Letter from a Muslim Captive

By: Rajib Khan

O companion of mine, how long have we been in this cave?

O companion of mine, how long have we been trapped in the stomach of the whale?

O companion of mine, do not be saddened nor despair, for the promise of our Lord is true and He will never fail!

By Allah, in this state of ours we have seen some of the great signs of Allah. Our Messenger (saw) spoke the truth when he said, "This world is a paradise for those that do not believe, and a prison for the believers." (It just happens that we are living in a prison within a prison.) Have you not noticed that in this cave your Imaan has become a fortress? Have you not realized that Allah (swt) has designated special servants to guard your fortress of Imaan and protect it from any doubt that may enter it?

Dear brother of mine, is it not the sunnah of Allah, that whenever any of his loved slaves enter a cave, they come out to be amongst the best of creation as long as they remain firm and patient upon his path. Was this not the case of the companions of the cave? Yunus (as) during his entrapment in the stomach of the whale? Ibraheem (as) when he was cast in to the burning fire? Musa (as) when he went in search of light and guidance? Our Messenger Muhammad (saw) and Abu Bakr (ra), when they took refuge in the cave? In each of these situations and many others Allah (swt) was with the believers!

Surely dear brother of mine this is a sign from Allah. Even though our bodies have been imprisoned, our eyes are free to travel through the pages of the Qur'an, our tongues are free to speak and recite from the pages of truth. My dear brother from the verses of the Allah one of the first verses that fell upon my eyes, recited on my tongue, strengthened my heart by lighting the torch of hope in the midst of the darkness of doubt was the saying of Allah (swt),

"Verily, Allah does not burden a soul more than what it can bear."

Ponder over this verse.....this incarceration of ours is within our ability to endure, for if it was not the case then Allah (swt) would not place such a burden on us. Even though we were taken to prison in hand-cuffs and wear the prison clothes and eat the prison food, Insha-Allah if we are successful and be from those that Allah (swt) is pleased with, then we shall be adorned with bracelets of gold, wear the clothes of Jannah; green silk robes with embroidery of gold, we shall eat from the utensils of gold and silver, food of delight which have been enjoyed by none and we will drink pure water, honey, milk and wine.

Dear brother even though we sit on rock hard chairs, if Allah (swt) wills then we shall recline on raised thrones. Even though we are given a few minutes for exercise in small concrete courtyards, If Allah (swt) wills we shall have a garden so spacious that if one were to travel in the shade of one tree amongst the hundreds and thousands it will take a swift rider over a hundred years of travelling from one end of the shade to the other.

Even though my dear brother we are locked in a room six steps long and three and a half steps wide for over twenty hours per day with steel beds that pain the back and with toilets inside the room or five spaces away, if Allah (swt) wills then we shall have the bedrooms the size of cities if not countries made of pearls and beds made of diamonds and mattresses softer than silk, and there will be no need for toilets as there is no discharge in Jannah.

My dear brother even though you are allowed out of your cell for a small period of time, know dear brother that in Jannah there is no lock up and for ever more we shall be free, Insha'allah.

"How good is the reward and what an excellent resting place."

18:29

But if we are failures (May Allah protect us from failure), then the refreshment will be boiling water that scalds the face, the food will be from the tree of Dari' – poisonous thorny tree, the clothes will be cut from fire, sandals of fire that will sizzle the brain and the beds will be made from fire.

"... An evil resting place."

18:29

May Allah protect us from such a failure and make us amongst those that are successful, Ameen

Dear brother of mine, our situation is similar of those three men that were trapped in the cave by a big rock. So let us learn from them and be like them in our invocation and ask Allah (swt) by remembering that we did sincerely for him (swt). One of the men looked after his parents and favoured them for the sake of Allah (swt), and Allah (swt) responded to him, the other abstained from Zina for the sake of Allah and He (swt) responded to him. The third was fair and just in his dealings for the sake of Allah (swt), and Allah (swt) responded to him, thus all were freed from their imprisonment. So let us look in our lives at those times when we favoured someone for the sake of Allah, stayed away from the haram for the sake of Allah (swt) and were fair and just in our dealings for the sake of Allah (swt) and ASK Allah to remove the obstacles and free us from our captivity and return us to our loved ones.

And remember my dear brother the saying of our Lord, "Do not be sad nor be down you will be uppermost if you indeed believe."

Salamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Your brother who loves you for the sake of Allah.

thursday | 17 sha'baan 1428 | 30 august 2007

Remembrance of Allah

"So remember Me - I will remember you."

(2:152)

"Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest."

(13:28)

- Abdullah ibn Busr related that a man once told the Prophet salallahu alayhi wassalam, "The roads to good are many and I am unable to take all of them, so please tell me something to which I can hold fast, but do not overburden me lest I forget it." He said, "Make sure that your tongue is moist and supple with the remembrance of Allah, the Exalted."
- Remembrance of Allah is a remedy for hard hearts. A man once told al-Hassan, "O Abu Sa'id, I complain to you about the hardness of my heart." He said, "Soften it with the remembrance of Allah." Makhul said, "Remembrance of Allah is (a sign of) health, while remembrance of people is like a disease." A man once asked Salman, "Which deeds are the best?" He said, "Haven't you read in the Qur'an: And the remembrance of Allah is greatest. (29:45)"
- Ibn Taimiyaa wrote, "Remembrance of Allah is to the heart what water is to fish. What happens to a fish when it is taken out of water?"
- Remembrance of Allah is sustenance for both the heart and the spirit. If the servant is deprived of it he becomes like a body which has been deprived of food. -Imaam Shaafi'ee

friday | 18 sha'baan 1428 | 31 august 2007

The Golden Gateways

Mu'adh ibn Jabal Radiyallahu 'Anh Narrates: I said to Allah's Messenger salallahu alayhi wassalam: *'Inform me about an act which would entitle me to get into Paradise, and remove me away from Hell-Fire.'*

He (the Prophet salallahu alayhi wassalam) said: *You have asked me about a matter (which ostensibly appears to be) difficult but it is easy to those for whom Allah, the Exalted, has made it easy. Worship Allah and do not associate anything with him, establish prayer, pay the Zakat, observe the fast of Ramadan and perform Hajj to the (sacred) House (Ka'bah).* He again said: *Should I not direct you to the gateways of good? ..*

*Listen to me: **The fasting** is a shield against evil, **the charity** extinguishes (the fire of sin) just as water extinguishes fire, **the prayer** of a person during the middle of the night.* Then he recited: *'Who forsake their beds...(up to)....they used to do.'* Then he said: *Should I not direct you to the highest level of this matter, to the pillar on which (it rests) and its top?*

I said: *Allah's Messenger yes, (do tell me).*

He said: *The uppermost level of the matter is **Islam**. Its pillar is the prayer and its top is **Jihad**.* He then said: *Should I not inform you of the sheet anchor of all this?*

I said: *Allah's Apostle (of course do it).*

He took hold of his tongue and said: Exercise restraint on it. I said: *Apostle of Allah, would we be held responsible for what we say with it?* Thereupon he said: *Mu'adh, may your mother be bereaved. Will anything else besides (irresponsible) talk cause the people to be thrown into the Hell-Fire upon their faces or on their nostrils?*

Hadith No. 2 Tirmidhi

Transmitted by Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah.

It was narrated on the authority of Abu Sa'eed that the Prophet said, "If a servant accepts and completes his Islam, Allah will record for him every good deed that he performed, and erase for him every evil deed that he did before [his Islam]. Then everything after that will be according to retribution. For every good deed, he will have recorded ten-fold up to seven hundred fold. And for every evil deed he will have recorded similarly [one] for it, unless Allah overlooks that for him." [1]

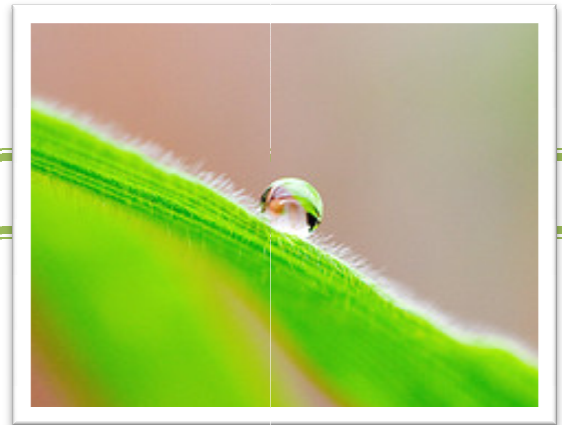
The meaning of the good and evil deeds done previously are those deeds which he did before Islam. This indicates that he is rewarded for the good deeds which he did while he was a disbeliever if he enters Islam, and the evil deeds which he did are erased if he enters Islam. However, the condition for this is that he perfects his Islam and avoids those evil deeds as a Muslim.

It is related on the authority of Hakeem bin Hizaam who said, "I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, do you think that there is a reward for any of the deeds which I have done before my Islam, such as giving charity, freeing slaves, or keeping good relations with my relatives?' So the Messenger of Allah replied, 'You have entered Islam with the good that you did previously.'" And in another narration attributed to him, Hakeem bin Hizaam said, "I said, 'I swear by Allah, I will not stop anything which I used to perform before Islam, and that I perform the same in Islam.'" [2] This indicates that the good deeds of a disbeliever if he becomes a Muslim are rewarded, as indicated by the previous hadith of Abu Sa'eed.

[1] Recorded by An-Nisaa'i in *Kitaab al-Imaan* #5013; also by al-Bukhaari in *Kitaab al-Imaan* #41

[2] Recorded by Muslim in *Kitaab al-Imaan* #123/194-195

- Ibn Rajab in *Jaami' al-'Uloom wal-Hikam*, pp 161-163



sunday | 20 sha'baan 1428 | 2 september 2007

The Muslims Are All One Hand Against Those Who Oppose Them...

Al-Qurtubī said in his *Tafsīr* [7/151], "There may be a situation where it is obligatory for everyone to go out, and that is if *Jihād* becomes an individual obligation due to the enemy's domination over a piece of land or his inhabiting the country. So if this is the case, it becomes obligatory for all the inhabitants of that land to hasten and go out [to *Jihād*], whether light or heavy, young or old, everyone according to his or her capability. The one who has a father can go without his permission, as well as the one without a father. And no one who is able to go out, whether rich or poor, can remain behind. So if the people of that land are unable to stand up to their enemy, then it is obligatory for those close to them and neighboring to them to go out, depending on what the people of that land are in need of, until they know they have the capacity to withstand the enemy and repel them. And likewise for everyone who knows about their weakness against the enemy, and knows that he can reach them and help them, he must also go out to them. The Muslims are all one hand against those who are opposing them, until the people of the area that the enemy descended upon and occupied [are able to] rise to repel the enemy, at this point the obligation falls from the rest."

The Memory of Caliph 'Umar bin Abdul-Aziz by his Wife

Abu Yusuf (d. 182 AH / 798 AD) Taken from the Book of Land Tax

When 'Umar ibn Abd al Aziz died, the learned men came to his wife to express sympathy and say how great a calamity had struck the people of Islam by his death. And they said to her, 'Tell us about him - for the one who knows best about a man is his wife'.

And she said: *"Indeed he never used to pray or fast more than the rest of you, but I never saw a servant of God who feared Him more than 'Umar. He devoted his body and his soul to the people. All day he would sit tending to their affairs, and when night came he would sit up while business remained. One evening when he had finished everything, he called for his lamp - from which he used to buy the oil from his own money - and prayed two prostrations. Then he sat back on his folded legs, with his chin in his hands, and the tears ran down from his cheeks, and this didn't stop until dawn, when he rose for a day of fasting."*

I said to him, *'Commander of the Believers, was there some matter that troubled you this night?'* And he said, ***'Yes, I saw how I was occupied while governing the affairs of the community, all its black sheep and its white sheep, and I remembered the stranger, beggared and straying, and the poor and the needy, and the prisoners in captivity, and all like them in the far places of the earth, and I realised that God most high would ask me about all of them, and Muhammad would testify about them, and I feared that I should find no excuse when I was with God, and no defence with Muhammad.'***

And even when 'Umar was with me in bed, where a man usually find some pleasure with his wife, if he remembered some affair of God's (people), he would be upset as a bird that had fallen into the water. Then his weeping would rise until I would throw off the blankets in kindness to him. 'By God' he would say, ***'How I wish that there was between me and this office the distance of the East from the West!'***



tuesday | 22 sha'baan 1428 | 4 september 2007

Zainab bint Jahsh (radiyAllahu 'anhaa)

After a life filled with charity and righteous deeds ,Zainab bint Jahsh (Rady Allāhu 'Anhā) died. She was known as the one who had *the longest hand* due to her efforts in feeding the poor and the needy.

Her death occurred during the caliphate of 'Umar (radiya Allahu Anh), in the year 20 A.H., when she was fifty years old.

She was the first of the Prophet's wives

to die after him and when death approached her ,she said,:

"I have already prepared my shroud ,but 'Umar will send me a shroud, so give one of them in charity."

and in truth , 'Umar (radiya Allahu Anh) sent five garments for her to choose from and she was wrapped in one of them, and her sister Hamnah (Rady Allāhu 'Anhā) gave away in charity the one she had prepared earlier.

May Allah subhanah make us followers to her likes , Ameen

What is Love?

Someone told me....

*Love is when you close your eyes, you see her radiant body and it excites you
You dream soo much of her, you start taking sleeping pills and acting like a fool*

*The perfume of her hair, her sweet smell lingers wherever you happen to go
Her beauty seems to increase day by day; it is more stunning than the moonlight glow*

*Those hard strong, passionate feelings are hard to describe
That burning desire increases everyday and every night*

*Everyday that passes by you become restless
Your thirst for her is at its peak, you wonder if it will start to decrease*

*You will smile for no reason, for no reason at all
You will make yourself cry because of wanting her soo bad*

*Her voice when she sings makes you hypnotised
Every breath that you take, you think of her, it cannot be denied*

*Am I in love I hear you ask.....
Yes, because.....*

*Every time I close my eyes I see myself amongst the people in Jannah rejoicing
I keep dreaming of myself praising my lord while my soul is in a green bird, flying*

*The only scent I love is the sweet aroma of my blood that gushes out when I attack the enemy
The beauty of my sword can outdo everything in the world I have seen*

*The strong feelings I have are also hard to describe
The burning desire to defeat the kuffar increases every night*

*I get restless as I wait, because I am a man of action
I am starving to destroy those pagans with both my hands and guns*

*I smile continuously because I am doing the peak of Islam
I cry out of fear of my lord and not to be misguided by the world*

*The mesmerizing and charming voice of my bride in Jannah is what I hear time to time
Telling me to carry on doing what I am in love with and assuring everything will be fine*

*What am I in love with? I hear you say
Isn't it obvious my dear brother?
It's the best thing, jihad in Allah's way!*

May Allah grant you and us what we desireAmeen

thursday | 24 sha'baan 1428 | 6 september 2007

The Dua of Light

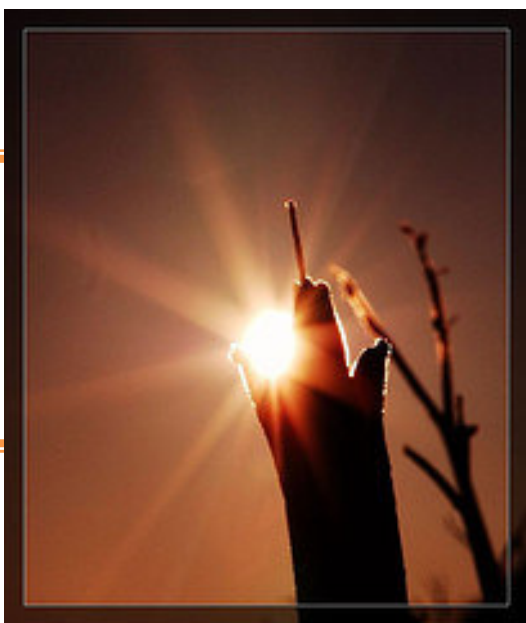
Ibn 'Abbâs reports that he once stayed the night as a guest of Maymûna, who was his aunt, and the Prophet, may Allâh bless him and grant him peace. They slept on their blanket lengthways, and he slept at the end, crossways. After they had all slept for a while, the Prophet rose in the middle of the night to pray the tahajjud prayer, and Ibn 'Abbas joined him.

They both did wudû', and he prayed eleven rak'ats with the Prophet. Then they both went back to sleep again until dawn. Bilâl called the adhân and the Prophet did another two short rak'ats, before going into the mosque to lead the Dawn Prayer.

Ibn 'Abbâs said that one of the du'âs that the Prophet made during this night was:

"O Allâh, place light in my heart, light in my tongue, light in my hearing, light in my sight, light behind me, light in front of me, light on my right, light on my left, light above me and light below me; place light in my sinew, in my flesh, in my blood, in my hair and in my skin; place light in my soul and make light abundant for me; make me light and grant me light."

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ فِي قَلْبِي نُورًا , وَفِي سَمْعِي نُورًا , وَفِي بَصَرِي نُورًا , وَعَنْ يَمِينِي نُورًا , وَعَنْ
شِمَالِي نُورًا , وَأَمَامِي نُورًا , وَخَلْفِي نُورًا , وَفَوْقِي نُورًا , وَتَحْتِي نُورًا , وَاجْعَلْ لِي نُورًا أَوْ
قَالَ : وَاجْعَلْنِي نُورًا



friday | 25 sha'baan 1428 | 7 september 2007

The Blessings for a Believer

Abu Yahya Suhaib bin Sinan (RA) reports Rasulullah (SAW) said, "How wonderful is the case of a believer; there is good for him in everything. If he is prosperous, he expresses gratitude to Allah and that is good for him; and if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is better for him". (Muslim)

Abu Saeed and Abu Hurayrah (RAA) report that the Rasulullah (SAW) "Never is a believer stricken with a discomfort, an illness, an anxiety, a grief or mental worry or even the pricking of a thorn but Allah expiates his sins on account of his patience". (Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Hurayrah (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said: "He for whom Allah intends good, He afflicts him with some difficulty". (Bukhari)



How Long it will take you to Memorize the Qur'an bi 'idhnillah

This schedule calculates how long it takes you to memorize the Quran according to your memorization ability.

If you memorize 1 aya each day, you will be able to memorize the Quran in 17 years and 7 months and 9 days

If you memorize 2 ayas each day, you will memorize the quran in 8 years 9 months and 18 days.

If you memorize 3 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 5 years 10 months and 13 days

If you memorize 4 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 4 years 4 months and 24 days

If you memorize 5 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 3 years 6 months and 7 days

If you memorize 6 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 2 years 11 months and 4 days

If you memorize 7 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 2 years 6 months and 3 days

If you memorize 8 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 2 years 2 months and 12 days

If you memorize 9 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 11 months and 12 days

If you memorize 10 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 9 months and 3 days

If you memorize 11 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 7 months and 6 days

If you memorize 12 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 5 months and 15 days

If you memorize 13 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 4 months and 6 days

If you memorize 14 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 3 months and 0 days

If you memorize 15 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 2 months and 1 days

If you memorize 16 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 1 months and 6 days

If you memorize 17 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 1 year 10 months and 0 days

If you memorize 18 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 11 months and 19 days

If you memorize 19 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 11 months and 1 day

If you memorize 20 ayas each day you will memorize the quran in 10 months and 16 days

And if you memorize 1 wajh each day, you will memorize the Quran in 1 year 8 months and 12 days

If you memorize 2 wajh each day, you will memorize the Quran in 10 months, 6 days

Don't forget each letter you say when reading the quran is a reward for you, and each reward is written for you as ten by Allah generosity. So in Bismillah arRahman arRaheem 19 letters which means 190 rewards! Just by doing the bismillah without even starting you gained 190 rewards masha'Allah. So how about doing ayas and repeating when you memorize? It is truly an offer from Allah we cannot refuse. It is the chance of a lifetime truly because some of the scales on the day of Judgement may only need one reward for it to be heavier and open up the way by Allah's mercy to the Jannah!

We ask Allah the sincerity, the truthfulness, the acceptance, the good abode at the hereafter.

A Story of a Woman who had Taqwa

Allah's statement; (Allah will grant after hardship, ease.)

This is a sure promise from Him, and indeed, Allah's promises are true and He never breaks them, This is an Allah's saying; (Verily, along with every hardship is relief. Verily, along with every hardship is relief.) [94:5-6]

There is a relevant Hadith that we should mention here. Imam Ahmad recorded that Abu Hurayrah said, "A man and his wife from an earlier generation were poor. Once when the man came back from a journey, he went to his wife saying to her, while feeling hunger and fatigued, 'Do you have anything to eat' She said, 'Yes, receive the good news of Allah's provisions.' He again said to her, 'If you have anything to eat, bring it to me.' She said, 'Wait a little longer.' She was awaiting Allah's mercy. When the matter was prolonged, he said to her, 'Get up and bring me whatever you have to eat, because I am real hungry and fatigued.' She said, 'I will. Soon I will open the oven's cover, so do not be hasty.' When he was busy and refrained from insisting for a while, she said to herself, 'I should look in my oven.' So she got up and looked in her oven and found it full of the meat of a lamb, and her mortar and pestle was full of seed grains; it was crushing the seeds on its own. So, she took out what was in the mortar and pestle, after shaking it to remove everything from inside, and also took the meat out that she found in the oven."

Abu Hurayrah added, "By He in Whose Hand is the life of Abu Al-Qasim (Prophet Muhammad)! This is the same statement that Muhammad said, (Had she taken out what was in her mortar and not emptied it fully by shaking it, it would have continued crushing the seeds until the Day of Resurrection.)"

[Tafseer ibn Katheer]



monday | 28 sha'baan 1428 | 10 september 2007

"And the stupor of death will come in truth...."

Abdullah bin Abu Mulaikah said: "I once accompanied Abdullah ibn Abbas radiyaAllah 'anhu on a journey from Makkah to Al-Madinah. When he would stop (to rest for the night), he would stand up and pray for one-half of the night. And upon coming across this Verse, he would recite it slowly and weep uncontrollably:

وَجَاءَتْ سَكْرَةُ الْمَوْتِ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنْتَ مِنْهُ تَحِيدُ

"And the stupor of death will come in truth: 'This is what you have been avoiding!'"

50:19

[Hilyatul-Awliyaa']

tuesday | 29 sha'baan 1428 | 11 september 2007

An Imprisoned Mujaahid's Dream that 'Isaa ('alayhis salaam) is Coming Soon

Sahih Muslim Book 029, Number 5621:

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: **When the time draws near (when the Resurrection is near) a believer's dream can hardly be false. And the truest vision will be of one who is himself the most truthful in speech, for the vision of a Muslim is the forty-fifth part of Prophecy.....**

Here is an excerpt from an interview of Qari Badr-uz-Zaman Badr (who spent three years in prison and was recently released from Guantanamo). It was aired on ARYONE in a program called 'views on news' in May 25 2005. It is in Urdu but a brother translated it to English.

THE TRANSLATION:

"We were busy in continuous worship and people (of Guantanamo) were close to ALLAH(SWT). Many people dreamt of the Prophet(saw) with glad tidings that freedom is nigh.

And Prophet Eesa(as) came and said that those who call themselves 'nasraani' [Christians], those people are not on the correct path and are astray and will be destroyed.

A Mujahid told me that he was asleep in Bagram during intense winter. Eesa(as) came in his dream with the Quraan in one hand and the Injeel [Bible] in the other. The mujahid said he wanted to embrace Eesa(as) and kiss him. But Prophet Eesa(as) stepped back. Someone announced this is a Mujahid from Cuba, Guantanamo. So Eesa (as) shook my hand and he kissed me on my forehead. He took my hand in his and said to me do not worry for freedom is very close and the 'nasraani's' will be destroyed. AND THAT I AM COMING.

He (mujahid) says when my hand was shaken I woke up. It was not warm but the mujahid was perspiring..."

"Then an Arab mujahid dreamt of Prophet Muhammad(saw) and the Prophet (saw) told him you are 'ahl al-badr' [the people of Badr]. So the mujahid said the people of Badr have passed away... So the Prophet (saw) said **'antum min ahl al-badr at-thani'** [You are the second people of Badr] and that **your status is not much less than that of the people of Badr**".

A Ramadan Checklist

1. Ask Allah to enable you to reach Ramadan and to get the most out of it as the Salaf used to do.
2. Intend to fast every day with Iman and pure intention seeking the reward from Allah alone. The Prophet peace be upon him said, "Whoever fasts in Ramadan with Iman and seeking reward (from Allah) his past sins will be forgiven". (Bukhari)
3. Read the whole Qur'an at least once as the Prophet peace be upon him did.
4. Have Suhoor as the Prophet peace be upon him said, "Have Suhoor because it is blessed".
5. Make Du'a during the fast because the Prophet peace be upon him said that three people's supplication is not rejected one of them is the fasting person. Ask for the good of this life and the next for yourself, your family and Muslims in general.
6. Make Dua before opening the fast. The Prophet peace be upon him said, "The fasting person has a supplication that is answered when he opens his fast".
7. Give Sadaqah and be good to people. The Prophet peace be upon him was the most generous of people and he was most generous in Ramadan.
8. Avoid anything that diminishes the fast such as, lying, backbiting, cheating, getting angry. The Prophet peace be upon him said "Whoever does not give up false statements (i.e. telling lies), and evil deeds, and speaking bad words to others, Allah is not in need of his (fasting) leaving his food and drink." [Bukhari]
9. Do not eat too much after Iftar.
10. Ask for forgiveness since this is the month Allah frees people from the fire.
11. Pray At-Tarawih with Khushoo. If you pray in the Masjid complete the Salah with the Imam. If you pray at home prolong the Salah as long as you can. The Prophet peace be upon him said, "Whoever prays during Ramadan with Iman and seeking reward (from Allah) his past sins will be forgiven".
12. Feed the poor and invite others for Iftar. The Prophet peace be upon him said, "Whoever gives Iftar to someone fasting he will have the same reward without decreasing the reward of the person fasting".
13. Try harder the last ten nights especially the odd nights. The prophet would strive in Ramadan more than he would in any other month and more so in the last ten days.
14. Say this Dua in the nights that Laitul-Qadr is likely to fall on: Allhumma innaka afuwun tuhibbul-afwa fa'fu anni (O Allah you are Forgiving and love forgiveness so forgive me).
15. Ask Allah to accept all your good actions during this month.

Coming Soon InshaAllah

issue 6: ramadan



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